

Quarterly Progress Report #4

For the project entitled:

Automated Cost Recovery: A Feasibility Study

*Reporting Period: July 1- September 30, 2007
(First Quarter of State Fiscal Year 2008)*

Submitted by:

David Kack

Research Associate II
Western Transportation Institute (WTI)
College of Engineering
Montana State University – Bozeman

Submitted to:

Montana Department of Transportation

Research Programs
2701 Prospect Avenue
Helena, Montana 59620

October 12, 2007

Task 0: Project Management

Timelines and tasks were reviewed to ensure that the project remains within the budget and on schedule. Due to issues with the cost/benefit analysis, implementation plan, and drafting of the report, a sixty day extension was requested and approved. The draft report will be presented on December 31, 2007. A synopsis on the status of each task follows.

Task 1: Review Automated Cost Recovery Systems in the Transit Industry

The literature review was finalized, although there is still follow-up with two systems (projects) that are focused on rural areas. The write-up of the findings is approximately 75 % complete, awaiting the final information on the two “rural” systems. This work included reviewing research and reports from numerous sources, and includes projects from throughout the United States.

Action Items for next quarter:

- Finalize review and complete write-up

This task is approximately 85% completed.

Task 2: Review Current Applications in Montana

Surveys were mailed to 73 transportation providers and 34 responses were received for a 47 percent response rate. WTI followed up with some respondents to clarify information. Missoula is the only system that has swipe card readers on fare boxes. WTI researchers traveled to Missoula to gather further information.

Action Items for next quarter:

- Finalize write-up of data and information.

This task is approximately 85% completed.

Task 3: Conduct a Requirements Analysis

(See information under Task 2).

Action Items for Next Quarter:

- See information under Task 2

Task 4: Review ADA Issues Related to Automated Cost Recovery Technologies

Utilized some information from Literature Review for basis of issues regarding ADA issues, and gathered information from a presentation on ADA-related issues at the Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA) Expo in Reno, NV.

Action Items for Next Quarter:

- Finalize write-up.

This task is approximately 90% completed.

Task 5: Develop a Cost/Benefit Analysis

Began analysis based on survey data and site visits, and information from the literature review.

Action Items for Next Quarter:

- Finalize analysis and write-up.

This task is approximately 60% completed.

Task 6: Create an Implementation Plan

This task began in July 2007, but was not completed due to issues with the cost/benefit analysis.

Action Items for Next Quarter:

- Finalize implementation plan and write-up.

This task is approximately 50% completed.

Task 7: Draft and Final Report & Project Summary Report

Draft report to be sent for review by December 31, 2007

Final report and Project Summary Report to be completed by February 22, 2008

Summary of Expenditures

Table 1 summarizes the expenditures on this project through September 30, 2007. Expenditures through the fourth quarter were nearly \$49,500; leaving approximately \$56,500 for the remainder of the project. The subcontractor submitted an invoice for work through the first week in September, which increased the overall amount spent on the project. It is estimated that the entire amount of \$106,100 will likely not be spent. As per discussion between MDT and WTI, the total cost of the project will be split equally between the two parties.

TABLE 1. Summary of Expenditures**July 1, 2007 - Sept 30, 2007**

Budget Category	Budgeted Funds	Spent This Period	Total Spent To Date	Remaining Balance
Labor	\$46,157.00	\$8,391.46	\$17,417.48	\$28,739.52
Subcontract	\$39,600.00	\$21,360.00	\$21,360.00	\$18,240.00
Travel	\$2,375.00	\$100.35	\$242.08	\$2,132.92
Operations/Comm.	\$220.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$220.00
Indirect	\$17,748.00	\$8,627.54	\$10,461.10	\$7,286.90
Totals	\$106,100.00	\$38,479.35	\$49,480.66	\$56,619.34
MDT Funds	\$53,050.00	\$35,049.35	\$46,050.66	\$6,999.34
WTI Funds	\$53,050.00	\$3,430.00	\$3,430.00	\$49,620.00
Totals	\$106,100.00	\$38,479.35	\$49,480.66	\$56,619.34

Project Schedule Summary

A summary of the project status is shown in Figure 1. As noted earlier, due to some issues with the cost/benefit analysis and implementation plan, a sixty day extension was requested and granted. The draft report will now be presented on December 31, 2007.

Even though a few tasks have taken us longer to accomplish than planned, based on the budget information, we are not overspending on any tasks, and the project will likely come in under budget.

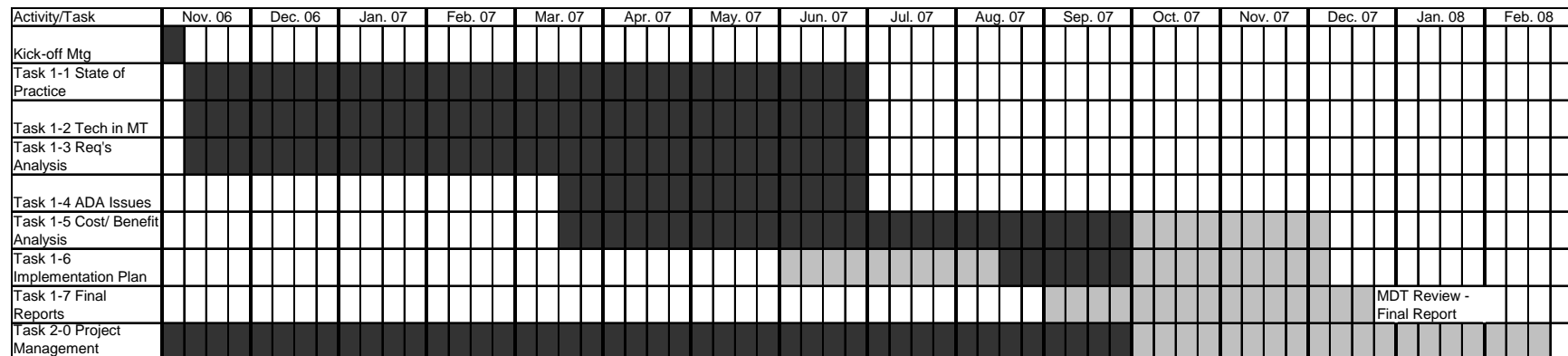


FIGURE 1: Project Schedule with Completed Work